Welcome to Week 6. Isn’t the term flying by?

As you all know, the students are fortunate to have computer technology lessons with Mrs Manning on Mondays. Part of these sessions emphasise coding using a program called ‘Scratch’. Two of our students will be fortunate to extend this skill with our Dungog & District Community of Schools during a 6 week course. This will involve a day at Gresford, followed by video conference sessions on Fridays at Martins Creek. This program will be delivered by a talented computing technology university student.

Milestone on Literacy

For the past three terms, Mrs Tucker and Mrs Rubeli have been participating in monthly Focus on Reading sessions after school with the Local Schools Network. This is a training program to ensure students in Year 3-6 have effective reading strategies for tackling non-fiction texts. We have picked up some great ideas including getting students to draw pictures of what comes into their minds as they read. This has really helped our visual learners have confidence to read more complicated texts in Science and HSIE.

Mrs Tucker has also been undertaking L3 literacy training for K-2 students which is a best practice toolkit for improving reading and writing skills. Our Stage 1 students have been benefiting from these activities which include daily one-on-one reading sessions with the class teacher.

School Reporter: Christopher. What makes a good citizen?

- A good citizen is helpful and kind
- A good citizen doesn’t put anyone down
- Good citizens are cheerful and make sure no-one gets hurt
- Arthur is a good citizen. He protects our school, keeps it safe and sometimes waters the garden.
- Arthur gets our chicken (scraps) and feeds them to his animals
- Arthur also lends us equipment if we need it

[The students were asked to describe what makes a good citizen and to think of a good citizen associated with our school]

Perseverance

It is a great pleasure to be continuing as your school chaplain for at least the next three years. We were successful in gaining funding for the position until the end of 2018, when this round of the National Schools Chaplaincy Program ends. My hours have been reduced by 50%, as have those of many existing chaplains, but that allows other schools to have a chaplain for the first time.

The last few years have been difficult, chiefly due to uncertainty about the future, and now it is possible to reflect and plan for the future. Perseverance has been critical to getting where we are today and it is perseverance that reaps rewards in most areas of human striving. I have been thinking and reading about the importance of failure. Some people say that you can do whatever you set your heart on, provided that you believe in yourself, as if there are no limits to what you can achieve. This may seem to be encouraging, but it also contains the seeds of discontent and disillusionment.

Failure is a natural part of our learning experiences and we can see it as an indicator that we are trying new things, or trying to develop our skills. It is reasonable to expect some failures when new or difficult tasks are attempted. Children benefit from being encouraged to learn from failures to make improved attempts in the future. In this way they learn persistence at tasks and develop habits of perseverance. This is why we do not criticise failures, but consider what improvements can be made to achieve the desired outcome. It is important to have realistic goals, rather than dreams, as this gives us a framework to achieve them. When the path is made clear, even if it is difficult, then there is a way forward and perseverance will be rewarded. Perseverance may involve altered strategies or different approaches to a problem; it may mean regular practice to develop mental and/or physical skills; it can require help from others. Perseverance is thoughtful, applied effort or persistence to achieve a goal, despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.
News Roster for March

Wed 2nd    George
Thurs 3rd   Flynn
Fri 4th     Chris
Mon 7th     Year 3
Tues 8th    Grace
Wed 9th     Jirralee
Thurs 10th  George
Fri 11th    Flynn
Mon 14th    Chris
Tues 15th   Year 3
Wed 16th    Grace

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**KIDS FITNESS CLASSES**

Location: Paterson Public School Hall

When: Tuesday's
- 3:30pm – 4:15pm (K, 1, 2, 3)
- 4:30pm – 5:15pm (3, 4, 5, 6)

SUITABLE FOR ALL FITNESS LEVELS, AGES AND IS SPECIAL NEEDS FRIENDLY, ONLY $10 PER CHILD

For more information or to book, call or text
Dani on 0411783790
or visit us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/valleyfitnessforkids

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**Good for Kids**

good for life

SCREEN FREE QUIET TIME

Some families have a daily quiet time where everyone takes a break. Do your children watch movies during their quiet time?

Why not try some of these activities instead to reduce the amount of screen time they are exposed to during the day and to keep their minds active:

- Reading books
- Arts and crafts
- Puzzles
- Card games
- Listening to some relaxing music
- Spending time in the garden

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**Rhee Tae Kwon Do Paterson**

Paterson School of Arts Hall
Duke Street Paterson
Tuesday nights 6pm-7pm
Contact instructor Annie 0403334191

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**AN INVITATION TO CARERS**

Do you provide care and support to another person? You are invited to Carer Connections Take the Opportunity to Connect with other Carers and listen to our Guest Speaker!

Carers are usually family members or friends who provide support to children or adults who have a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or who are frail aged.

GUEST SPEAKER: June Morris - Service Manager
Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Dementia Advisory Service

TOPIC: “Dementia and why you need to know about it”

VENUE: Wallsend Diggers, 5 Tyrell Street, Wallsend
TIME: 10.00am – 12.00pm
COST: Free - includes Morning Tea
WHEN: Thursday 31 March 2016
RSVP: Thursday 24 March 2016

For more information or to Register Contact: HNE Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter on: 4924 8146 or 1300 887 776 or Email: Educare-Adm@health.nsw.gov.au
(We ask that you RSVP for catering purposes)